



City Councilmember
Carl DeMaio

News Release

DeMaio Opposes Pay Increases for Mayor and City Council -- Urges Colleagues to Lead by Example

*Councilmembers' Pension Benefits Start Immediately Upon Retirement;
Could Receive up to \$1.4 Million in Their Lifetime*

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SAN DIEGO – Citing the fact that the City's infrastructure is in disrepair and library hours remain slashed, Councilmember DeMaio flatly refused to support a proposed salary increase for elected officials and called on his council colleagues to lead by example and vote down the recommendation.

"During a time when our roads are falling apart and San Diego families are struggling to make ends meet, it is absolutely wrong for their elected representatives to vote themselves a pay increase," DeMaio said.

DeMaio also questioned why the salary setting commission chose to ignore the financially generous pension benefits offered to elected officials into the total pay amount.

The annual cost of elected official's benefits is significantly higher than the \$75,386 listed by the commission. **When accounting for fringe benefits the legislative compensation totals approximately \$120,000.**

DeMaio also noted the exorbitantly high amount in yearly pension benefits elected officials receive from taxpayers. Councilmembers are also vested and can receive a pension for life after only 4 years of service.

"Before a pay increase is ever discussed, elected officials need to start leading by example and reform the lucrative taxpayer funded pension benefits that they receive," stated DeMaio.

On his first day in office Councilmember DeMaio refused to enroll in the city's pension system. This action has saved taxpayers approximately \$30,000 per year out of his City Council budget – and DeMaio's refusal to take a pension equates to him personally turning down between \$600,000 and \$800,000 in payouts over the course of his lifetime.

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